



Region 10

Applicant: South Central Michigan Works!

Main Contact: Christine Quinn
310 W. Bacon Street
Hillsdale, Michigan 49242
(517)437-0990
cquinn@scmw.org

Partners: South Central Michigan Works!

Counties Included: Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Lapeer, Saginaw, Midland, Bay, Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee

Regional Highlights:

Region 10 has a mixed development status, with Jackson County being more municipal than the predominantly rural areas of Hillsdale and Lenawee counties. The region has lost thousands of manufacturing and retail trade jobs in recent years, but has experienced some modest job growth in service sectors.

BEST

Over the past five years, South Central Michigan Works! has developed and implemented the Business Enhancement through Services and Training (BEST) process which collaborates with workforce, education, and economic development partners and focuses on serving businesses through a “demand driven” workforce development system. The BEST process meets the goals of linking key partners and factors in the leveraging of all available assets to keep business competitive in a global market in order to save as well as create jobs.

The area's BEST system is already an example of a unified local approach to working with employers and thoroughly assesses the status of the local workforce for those that participate. The process uses initial fact-finding to do a needs assessment, brings key participants together to discuss problems and possible solutions, and implements an action plan to offer needed resources and training to the customer.

Currently, vital partners include local government economic departments of the area's three counties, all area chambers of commerce, the Jackson Area Manufacturers Association, the Enterprise Group, Jackson Community College, Michigan State University, the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, the MEDC, and several other community development organizations. South Central Michigan Works! plans to continue to expand and augment collaboration with many additional partners through the expansion of their BEST process in the area's 21st Century Coordinated Regional Strategies Project